Claims:

- 1. A method of treating a cell proliferative disorder associated with 5'ALT polynucleo-tide(s), comprising contacting the cell having or suspected of having the disorder with a reagent which modulates 5'ALT.
- 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the modulation is inhibition of 5'ALT expression or activity.
- 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the modulation is stimulation of 5'ALT expression or activity.
- 4. The method of claim 1, wherein the reagent is an antibody which binds to 5'ALT.
- 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the reagent is a polynucleotide.
- 6. The method of claim 5, wherein the polynucleotide is a 5'ALT antisense sequence.
- 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the cell is derived from lung, pancreas, blood, head or neck.
- 8. The method of claim 1, wherein the reagent which modulates 5'ALT is introduced into the cell using a vector.
- 9. A method of treating a cell proliferative disorder associated with altered p16 expression comprising administering to a subject with the disorder, a therapeutically effective amount of reagent which modulates p16 expression.
- 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the reagent is a demethylating agent.
- 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the reagent is 5-deoxyazacytadine.